

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a variety of disparate host devices access to digital images residing on a digital camera device, the method comprising upon connection of the digital camera device to a particular host device that is capable of hosting digital camera devices, the digital camera device:

sending, prior to establishing a communication session on top of a physical communication link for a communication stack of the connection, one or more queries over the connection, the one or more queries being associated with one or more expected responses stored in a knowledgebase including a registry, the communication stack having one or more communication layers including the communication session, each communication layer corresponding to a communication protocol;

comparing a response received in response to the one or more queries over the connection with the one or more expected responses to determine an identifier for a type kind of the physical communication link for the communication stack of the connection to the particular host device;

looking up a preferred configuration for the one or more communication layers according to the determined identifier referencing the settings in the registry;

allowing communication between the digital camera device and the particular host device;

automatically identifying the particular host device that the digital camera device is currently connected to;

based on said determined ~~kind type~~ of physical communication link, establishing the communication session between the digital camera device and the particular host device for the communication stack of the connection, said communication session supporting photo-serving communication protocols that present the digital camera device as a file server to the host device; and through said photo-serving communication protocols, allowing the host device to access digital images residing on the digital camera device, as if the digital camera device were the file server.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said connecting step includes:
connecting the digital camera device to a particular host device over a wireless communication medium.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said connecting step includes:
connecting the digital camera device to a particular host device over a wireline communication medium.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said wireline communication medium includes a selected one of serial (RS-232) and USB (Universal Serial Bus) connectivity.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said particular host device comprises a handheld computing device.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said particular host device comprises a cellular phone device.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said particular host device and said digital camera device support TCP/IP connectivity corresponding to one of the communication protocols of the communication stack and wherein the communication session is a TCP/IP session.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said particular host device includes facilities for offloading digital images from said digital camera device, wherein the preferred configurations include transmission speed properties of the kind of the physical communication link identified by the identifier.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said particular host device includes facilities for manipulating digital images, while those digital images reside on said digital camera device.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said identifying step occurs immediately upon connection of the digital camera to the particular host device.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said identifying step includes: probing the particular host device in a query/response fashion, for identifying the particular host device, the registry including keys comprising one or more query/response pairs, and

wherein the probing comprises sending query-byte sequences according to one of the query/response pairs.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said probing step includes:
referencing a knowledgebase that stores expected responses, for identifying the particular host device.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said expected responses comprise factory preset values.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said knowledgebase is stored in a registry of the digital camera device.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said communication session established between the digital camera device and the particular host device employs TCP/IP.

17. (Original) The method claim 1, wherein said photo-serving communication protocols comprise a photo-specific interface allowing the particular host device to directly access digital images on a per-file basis, while those images reside on the digital camera device.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said photo-serving communication protocols comprise a command set providing the particular host device with file-based access and manipulation of digital images residing on the digital camera device.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
providing host-side support for the photo-serving communication protocols by injecting an appropriate driver into the particular host device.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the appropriate driver is initially stored on said digital camera device and is injected into the particular host device upon connection of the two devices together.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a variety of disparate host devices access to files residing on a portable device, upon the portable device's connection to one of the host devices, the method comprising:

sending, prior to establishing a communication session on top of a physical communication link for a communication stack of the connection, one or more queries over the connection, the one or more queries being associated with one or more expected responses stored in a knowledgebase including a registry, the communication stack having one or more communication layers including the communication session, each communication layer corresponding to a communication protocol;

comparing, subsequently to sending the one or more queries, a response received over the connection with the one or more expected responses stored in a knowledgebase to determine an identifier for a type kind of a physical communication link for the communication stack of the connection to the particular host device;

looking up preferred configurations for the one or more communication layers according to the determined identifier referencing the settings in the registry;

~~establishing a~~ allowing communication ~~session~~ between the digital camera device and the particular host device;

automatically identifying the particular host device that the portable device is connected to; and

based on said determined ~~type~~ kind of physical communication link:

- (1) establishing the communication session between the portable device and the particular host device for the communication stack of the connection, said communication session supporting file-serving communication protocols that present the portable device as a file server to the host device; and
- (2) if needed by the host for supporting said file-serving communication protocols, automatically uploading a driver from the portable device to the particular host device and thereafter invoking execution of the driver at the particular host device, for providing host-side support for said file-serving communication protocols.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein said connecting step includes: connecting the portable device to a particular host device over a wireless communication medium.

23. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein said connecting step includes: connecting the portable device to a particular host device over a wireline communication medium.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein said wireline communication medium includes a selected one of serial (RS-232) and USB (Universal Serial Bus) connectivity.

25. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein said particular host device comprises a computing device.

26. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein said particular host device comprises a handheld computing device.

27. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein said particular host device comprises a cellular phone device.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said particular host device and said portable device support TCP/IP connectivity corresponding to one of the communication protocols of the communication stack and wherein the communication session is a TCP/IP session.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said particular host device includes facilities for offloading files from said portable device, wherein the preferred configurations include transmission speed properties of the kind of the physical communication link identified by the identifier.

30. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein said particular host device includes facilities for manipulating files, while those files reside on said portable device.

31. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein said identifying step occurs immediately upon connection of the portable device to the particular host device.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said identifying step includes: probing the particular host device in a query/response fashion, for identifying the particular host device, wherein registry includes one or more query/response pairs arranged in an order, wherein the probing comprises sending query-byte sequences according to one of the query/response pairs.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein said probing step includes: referencing a knowledgebase that stores expected responses, for identifying the particular host device.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein said expected responses comprise factory preset values.

35. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein said knowledgebase is stored in a registry of the portable device.

36. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein said communication session established between the portable device and the particular host device employs TCP/IP.

37. (Original) The method claim 21, wherein said file-serving communication protocols comprise a file-specific interface allowing the particular host device to directly access files, while those files reside on the portable device.

38. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein said file-serving communication protocols comprise a command set providing the particular host device with file-based access and manipulation of files residing on the portable device.

39. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
providing host-side support for the file-serving communication protocols by injecting an appropriate driver into the particular host device.

40. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein the appropriate driver is initially stored on said portable device and is injected into the particular host device upon connection of the two devices together.

41. (Currently Amended) A portable device allowing a variety of disparate host devices access to files residing on the portable device, upon the portable device's connection to one of the host devices, the portable device comprising:

a connection interface for enabling the connection of the portable device to a particular host device that is capable of hosting the portable device;

an identification module configured for

sending, prior to establishing a communication session on top of a physical

communication link for a communication stack of the connection, one
or more queries over the connection, the one or more queries being
associated with one or more expected responses stored in a
knowledgebase including a registry having key settings configured with
factory preset values, the communication stack having one or more
communication layers including the communication session, each
communication layer corresponds to a communication protocol
automatically identifying the particular host device that the portable
device is connected to, including;

comparing, subsequently to sending the one or more queries, a response
received over the connection with the one or more expected
responses stored in a knowledgebase according to the key settings of
the registry to determine an identifier for a type kind of the physical
communication link for the communication stack of the connection to
the particular host device;

looking up preferred configurations for the one or more communication layers
according to the determined identifier referencing the configured key
settings in the registry for a query sent over the physical
communication link prior to establishing a communication session
allowing communication between the portable device and the
particular host device

device is currently connected to, wherein the key settings include

sub-keys as a table of possible communicating devices that may be

connected from time to time to the portable device and wherein the

particular host device is indicated by one or more internal flags updated

according to the identification; and

a communication module for establishing, based on said determined ~~type~~ kind of

physical communication link, the communication session between the portable

device and the particular host device, wherein said communication session

supports file-serving communication protocols that present the portable device

as a file server to the host device, wherein the access of the files includes

quality of the files depending on the preferred configurations for the preferred

configurations for the one or more communication layers of the communication

stack.

42. (Original) The device of claim 41, wherein said connection interface supports connecting the portable device to a particular host device over a wireless communication medium.

43. (Original) The device of claim 41, wherein said connection interface supports connecting the portable device to a particular host device over a wireline communication medium.

44. (Original) The device of claim 43, wherein said wireline communication medium includes a selected one of serial (RS-232) and USB (Universal Serial Bus) connectivity.

45. (Original) The device of claim 41, wherein said particular host device comprises a computing device.

46. (Original) The device of claim 41, wherein said particular host device comprises a handheld computing device.

47. (Original) The device of claim 41, wherein said particular host device comprises a cellular phone device.

48. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 41, wherein said particular host device and said portable device support TCP/IP connectivity corresponding to one of the communication protocols of the communication stack and wherein the communication session is a TCP/IP session.

49. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 41, wherein said particular host device includes facilities for offloading files from said portable device, wherein the preferred configurations include transmission speed properties of the kind of the physical communication link identified by the identifier.

50. (Original) The device of claim 41, wherein said particular host device includes facilities for manipulating files, while those files reside on said portable device.

51. (Original) The device of claim 41, wherein said identification module operates to identify the particular host device immediately upon connection of the portable device to the particular host device.

52. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 41, wherein said identification module probes the particular host device in a query/response fashion, for identifying the particular host device, wherein the key settings include one or more query/response pairs arranged in an order, wherein the probing comprises sending query-byte sequences according to one of the query/response pairs following the order and wherein the query-byte sequences match the one of the query/response pairs if a value of the one of the query/response pairs is of zero length.

53. (Original) The device of claim 52, wherein said identification module references a knowledgebase that stores expected responses, for identifying the particular host device.

54. (Original) The device of claim 53, wherein said expected responses comprise factory preset values.

55. (Original) The device of claim 33, wherein said knowledgebase is stored in a registry of the portable device.

56. (Original) The device of claim 41, wherein said communication session established between the portable device and the particular host device employs TCP/IP.

57. (Original) The device claim 41, wherein said file-serving communication protocols comprise a file-specific interface allowing the particular host device to directly access files, while those files reside on the portable device.

58. (Original) The device of claim 41, wherein said file-serving communication protocols comprise a command set providing the particular host device with file-based access and manipulation of files residing on the portable device.

59. (Original) The device of claim 41, wherein the driver injection module stores an appropriate driver initially on said portable device, wherein the driver is injected into the particular host device upon connection of the two devices together.

60. (Original) The device of claim 41, wherein the communication session is initially established using Point-to-Point protocol.

61. (Original) The device of claim 41, wherein said file-serving communication protocols include FTP (File Transport Protocol) support.

62. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 41, further comprising:
a driver injection module for providing host-side support for said file-serving communication protocols if not already present, said driver injection module operating by automatically uploading a driver from the portable device to the particular host device and thereafter invoking execution of the driver at the particular host device, so that the host device may access files residing on the portable device, as if the portable device were a file server.